

Application No.: 10/506,397
Filing Date: May 19, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 stand rejected. Claims 1-6, 8, and 9 have been amended. New dependent Claims 10 and 11 have been added. The amendments add no new matter. Thus, Claims 1-11 are presented for consideration and further examination in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Rejection of Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 2

In the Office Action, independent Claim 1 and its dependent claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 2 as being indefinite for failing particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner indicates that the recitation of “data interface” along with the narrower recitation of “especially a data transmitter” renders Claim 1 indefinite. The Examiner also objected to the other uses of the term “especially” in independent Claim 1. Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to delete the phrases “especially for filling gas tanks of motor vehicles,” “especially collet chucks,” and “especially a data transmitter,” thus clarifying independent Claim 1. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been overcome.

Claim 3 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as lacking antecedent basis for the limitations “the front housing part” and “the rear housing part.” Applicant has amended Claim 1 to recite “a front housing part” and Claim 3 to recite “a rear housing part,” thus curing the lack of antecedent basis. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has also been overcome.

Rejection of Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Phillips

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,109,686 (Phillips). Applicant respectfully submits that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2131.

Phillips discloses a system for proportioning tax to the fuel-efficiency class of a vehicle. (Abstract). The system includes a vehicle nozzle having radially-extending lugs, and a vehicle filler neck with slots to receive the lugs. (Col. 3 ll. 1-7). The length of the slots in the neck

corresponds to the fuel-efficiency class of the vehicle. (Col. 3 ll. 11-14). The vehicle nozzle is inserted into the neck and twisted (about its longitudinal axis) to the extent possible, until the lugs reach the far ends of the slots in the neck. (Col. 3 ll. 8-10). The nozzle is provided with angle-measurement means to determine the extent of rotation of the nozzle, and the resulting information is used to proportion tax according to the vehicle's fuel efficiency. (Col. 3 ll. 15-44).

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite a connection coupling comprising "a sliding sleeve for locking connecting profile sections of the connection coupling onto [a] nipple, the sliding sleeve being movable in a longitudinal direction with respect to [a] front housing part of the connection coupling; and a data interface arranged on the sliding sleeve and configured to indicate matching of the connection coupling with the nipple, at least a portion of the data interface being movable in the longitudinal direction with the sliding sleeve."

The nozzle 38 of Phillips includes an annular collar 44, which has been identified by the Examiner as corresponding to the "sliding sleeve" recited in Claim 1. In Phillips, however, although the nozzle 38 is twisted after it is inserted, the collar 44 is not movable with respect to any portion of the nozzle 38. Thus, the collar 44 is not "movable in a longitudinal direction with respect to the front housing part of the connection coupling," as recited in amended Claim 1. In addition, the angle-measurement means of Phillips is not "movable in the longitudinal direction with [a] sliding sleeve," as also required by amended Claim 1. Thus, Applicant submits that Phillips fails to disclose at least the above-quoted structure as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, because Phillips does not disclose each and every element of Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of independent Claim 1 has been overcome.

Claims 2-9 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and, thus, are patentable for at least the same reasons that the claim from which they depend is patentable over the applied art. Therefore, allowance of Claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

New Dependent Claims 10 and 11

Applicant has added new Claims 10 and 11 for the Examiner's consideration. New Claims 10 and 11 depend from Claim 1 and recite, respectively, "wherein the data interface is a data transmitter," and "wherein the profile sections are collet chucks." Support for these new

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claims can be found in at least Claim 1 as originally filed. Applicant submits that these claims are patentable for at least the reasons that Claim 1 is patentable. Consideration and allowance of new Claims 10 and 11 therefore is respectfully requested.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

Any remarks in support of patentability of one claim should not be imputed to any other claim in this or a related application, even if similar terminology is used. Any remarks referring to only a portion of a claim should not be understood to base patentability on solely that portion; rather, patentability must rest on each claim taken as a whole.

Applicant respectfully traverses each of the Examiner's rejections and each of the Examiner's assertions regarding what the prior art discloses or teaches, even if not expressly discussed herein. Although changes to the claims have been made, no acquiescence or estoppel is or should be implied thereby; such amendments are made only to expedite prosecution of the present application and are without prejudice to the presentation or assertion, in the future, of claims relating to the same or similar subject matter.

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Any claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are not made for patentability purposes, and it is believed that the claims would satisfy the statutory requirements for patentability without the entry of such amendments. Rather, these amendments have only been made to increase claim readability, to improve grammar, and to reduce the time and effort required of those in the art to clearly understand the scope of the claim language.


The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the noted rejections and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if an issue requires clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve any such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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